31st July 1952]

Number of Factory Inspectors in the State.

* 320 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Factory Inspectors in the State;

(*b*) their functions;

(*c*) the number of Assistant Inspectors of Labour in the State; and

(*d*) their functions and extent of jurisdiction?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Eight Regional Inspectors, 14 Inspectors and 1 Inspectress of Factories.

" (*b*) Their duty is to administer the provisions of the following enactments :—

The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925 (Partially).

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934.

The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

The Employment of Children Act, 1938.

The Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947.

The Factories Act, 1948.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

" (*c*) 199.

" (*d*) The Assistant Inspectors of Labour are mainly concerned with the administration of Madras Shops and Establishments Act. They are also appointed as 'Additional Inspectors' under the Factories Act, 1948, and are entrusted with the inspection of non-power factories and all hotels and restaurants. They enforce the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, Madras Maternity Benefit Act, Minimum Wages Act and Employment of Children Act, in the factories and establishments they inspect. Besides these items of regular work they are also entrusted with the work of periodical checking of the requirements of coal and coke of consumers and submitting monthly returns.

" A statement[a] showing the jurisdictions of the Assistant Inspectors of Labour has been placed on the table of the House."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government prosecute those owners of factories who infringe the regulations of the Factories Act? For instance, a complaint had been made to the Inspector of Factories that the owners of the Vuyyur Sugar Factory had failed to carry out the instructions embodied in the Factories Act; but we find that steps to launch prosecutions have not yet been taken. May

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 860–865 infra.

I know, Sir, whether the Government will supply us with the information in regard to cases wherein the owners of factories have been prosecuted for disobeying the Factories Act?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" When a complaint is received by the Inspector of Factories, he examines it and provided there are enough grounds for prosecution, the owner is punished. As to the latter part of the question, I want notice, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" With reference to answer to clause (d), may I know whether the extent of jurisdiction of Assistant Inspectors of Factories is curbed due to the number of shops they have to inspect or to the number of miles they have to travel? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Each Assistant Inspector of Factories has to inspect between 1,000 and 1,500 establishments. That is how the jurisdiction is divided."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" From the replies given by the Hon. Minister, I gather that proper maintenance of hygienic conditions in the factories is not being insisted upon by Government. I would like to have a reply from the Hon. Minister in this connexion."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Even at present, the Inspector of Factories is expected to look into the proper upkeep of sanitary conditions in the factories. My hon. Friend seems to doubt it. Without committing myself, let me tell my hon. friend that if he brings to my notice specific cases, I would look into them."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that they had deputed one of their own medical officers to specialize in industrial hygiene, and that after specialization the services of that officer (Sri R. V. Subramaniam) are not being utilized in the proper direction but that he is employed as an Additional Professor in the Medical College. Will the Government consider appointing specialists in industrial hygiene to look into the proper upkeep of these factories, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member has brought this specific instance to my notice, a week ago. I may inform him that the matter is being looked into."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" The Hon. Minister had stated that there are at present 199 Assistant Inspectors of Factories. May I know how many of them are Harijans? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

Aboriginals in Kannavam forest area.

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."